

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN

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CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD

SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T BERLIN 0120

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, NATO, PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR OPTIONS: BERLIN BRIGADE

REF: BONN 00942

1. WE FULLY SHARE EMBASSY'S CONCERN ABOUT REPERCUSSIONS OF REDUCTIONS IN BERLIN BRIGADE ALONG LINES OF ANY OF OPTIONS ADDRESSED IN PARA 1 REFTEL. (WE ALSO STRONGLY URGE, AS EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED, THAT WE BE KEPT INFORMED IN REGARD TO SUCH PLANNING.)

2. USBER'S ANNUAL ASSESSMENT (BERLIN 2159; A-291) EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF ANALYZING ANY CHANGES IN STRENGTH OF BRIGADE FOR THEIR POLITICAL IMPORT. AS EMBASSY HAS POINTED OUT, TWO-BATTALION REDUCTION WOULD BE REGARDED AS INDICATION OF FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN US ATTITUDE TOWARD BERLIN. WE WOULD SUGGEST FURTHER THAT EVEN ONE BATTALION REDUCTION, IF UNDERTAKEN DURING CURRENT TRANSITION PERIOD, COULD HAVE ALMOST EQUALLY DAMAGING EFFECT. GDR HAS BEGUN TO TAKE

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INCREASINGLY ASSERTIVE STANCE, REFLECTING ITS ENHANCED

INTERNATIONAL STATUS, AND WEST BERLINERS ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT WESTERN STAYING POWER IN RESISTING SOVIET-GDR EFFORTS TO TREAT WEST BERLIN AS SEPARATE STATE AND REDUCE TIES WITH FRG. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE WOULD BE WIDESPREAD INCLINATION IN WEST BERLIN TO READ INTO SIZEABLE REDUCTION IN US GARRISON A US DECISION TO MAKE MAJOR POLITICAL CONCESSION IN CENTRAL EUROPE IN RETURN FOR MBFR AGREEMENT.

3. OUR ASSESSMENT ACCORDED WITH EMBASSY VIEW THAT BY TIME MBFR AGREEMENT IS AT HAND, SITUATION COULD BE REVIEWED AND POSSIBILITY OF REDUCTIONS CONSIDERED. WE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN THEN WE SHOULD AVOID SUGGESTING THAT GDR, AS AN MBFR NEGOTIATOR, HAS VOICE IN BERLIN MATTERS.

4. FINALLY, WE URGE THAT ALL DISCUSSION OF ANY LARGE-SCALE REDUCTIONS IN BRIGADE BE CLOSELY HELD, IN VIEW OF POLITICALLY DESTABILIZING EFFECT NEWS OF SUCH PLANNING WOULD HAVE.

5. USCOB CONCURS.KLEIN

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